

**Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting
Held on June 28, 2011
At the Board Office**

Attendance: Sylvia Alexander, Robert Press, Tricia Mullen, Colleen Hanley, Julie Reyes, Maria Khury, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Eleanor Edelstein - Rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell, Cori Worchel & Cliff Stanton-PS 24 Co-PA Presidents, Miawling Lam - Riverdale Review

The meeting was called to order at 7:38PM by Chair Alexander. The minutes of the May meeting were accepted as written.

Chair Report: 4,100 teachers will not have to be laid off. Through NY Junior Tennis league and City Councilman Koppell, tennis program will start July 5th at the Kennedy Campus. This is for kids age 6-18 from 9AM-12PM.

The Capital and Expense Budget for 2013 was passed as submitted.

Eleanor Edelstein of Councilman's staff said that the Councilman was told by the SCA that the old Kingsbridge Library building was too small to house a school. She said that local schools were at or close to capacity, and with all the new buildings a new school would be needed. The Councilman got 22 million dollars in funding for 40 local schools in his council district.

PS 24 PA Co-President Cori Worchel and Cliff Stanton said that they and 65% of the parents in general education (that were surveyed) are unsatisfied with current middle school options. They said that those who have children in MS 141 liked the school. A school committee spoke to Lucy Dune at the DOE about starting a charter middle school, and Mr. Stanton (who is a parent of a 5th grade G&T student) said that he believes that there are enough parents who would enroll their children. He added that it may not happen by 2012 when his child graduates, and expressed his dismay of no options for middle school G&T programs locally.

Board Member Robert Press said that he had brought up the issue of not having a local G&T middle school program at MS 141 last year when PS 24 started the 4th grade of its G&T Program. Mr. Press said that his child was in a similar situation at middle school time, but he sent his child to MS 141 and HS 141, good enough to earn high scholarships to several distinguished colleges. As for a new charter middle school Mr. Press said the criteria for admitting students is as follows-currently enrolled students are first priority, then any siblings of those currently enrolled, children from the local school district, children from the city school district, and lastly any child living in New York State. He added that children from outside the Bronx and even New York City could and would apply as children from Yonkers have applied to the two new charter high schools that are replacing Kennedy High School.

Assemblyman Jeffery Dinowitz asked for more clarity from Mr. Stanton on the grades of his charter school. He said that parents were very clear about better middle school options other than MS 141 in its current state. Assemblyman Dinowitz said that people are asking him for a K-8 charter school for the area. He added that the failure of a local charter school last year, and the problems that the charter school on Exterior Street is experiencing, that a new charter school in the area might not happen. He added that the

“No Child Left Behind” children that have been and are transferred into MS 141 has led to its decline, and that the same is happening at PS 24. Mr. Stanton (to the decline of PS 24) said that it is hard to compare year to year, and that he does not have all the answers.

Assemblyman Dinowitz said that in the next few years the DOE will do school site selections. The committee should look into where the students in local schools come from (i.e.) the special education program at PS 24, the large PS/MS 95 school zone, students from Yonkers attending PS 81 whose parents use a Bronx address where they may work, and that PS 7 is still underutilized. He said that there is a need for a school in the northwest part of CB8 in the current DOE capital plan, and there needs to be a look at school zones. He added that 24% of students at PS 24 are from outside the school zone, and that special education students need to be home zoned in coming years rather than being bused to other locations miles away from their homes.

Some topics to be considered for next year's are:

- Branch out to other locations for meetings
- Chancellor invited to Community Board 8
- Let's Move program promoted by First Lady
- Civics in the Schools
- JFK concerns
- Bullying
- Adult Literacy-GED programs

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Chair thanks Robert Press for taking the minutes of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee